

REMARKS

Claims 12-21 are pending in the application. Claim 21 is newly added via this Amendment.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claims 12-20 are objected to as being indefinite because claims 12 and 17-20 recited "each dot that makes up said second correction pattern is a different size." In particular, the Examiner asserts that the term "different" is a relative term. To address the objection, Applicant amends claims 12, 17, 18, 19 and 20 to recite that the size of each dot that makes up said second correction pattern is different from the size of said dots that make up said first correction pattern. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

35 USC § 102:

Claims 12-15, 17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujimori (2001/0030671 A1).

The Examiner maintains reliance on Fujimori and further emphasizes his position in Section 7 of the Office Action. In particular, the Examiner questions whether the distance between the dots along the first direction of the first correction pattern and the distance between dots along the first direction of the second correction pattern is the same distance, or a different distance.

Applicant amends claims 12, 17, 19 and 20 to recite, *inter alia*, that a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said first direction of said first correction pattern and a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said first direction of said second correction pattern are limited to be the same distance. Moreover, claims 12, 17, 19 and 20 also recite, *inter alia*, that a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said second direction of said first correction pattern is different from a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said second direction of said second correction pattern. Fujimori does not disclose at least these unique combinations of features. For example, even if, *arguendo*, Fujimori is asserted to disclose that either one of the above-noted features are

disclosed, it does not disclose that each feature is provided at the same time. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn. The rejection of claims 13-15 should likewise be withdrawn at least due to their respective dependencies on claim 12.

35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimori in view of Nishigori (JP 10-329381).

Claim 18 is amended in a manner similar to independent claims 12, 17, 19 and 20. Thus, the Examiner will appreciate that Fujimori likewise fails to teach or suggest the features of amended claim 18. Further, Nishigori fails to make up for the deficient teachings of Fujimori in regard claims 12 and 18, such that claim 16 is patentable over the references at least due to its dependency on claim 12.

EXAMINER COMMENTS:

The Examiner notes that claims 12-18 are directed towards a printing apparatus, and questions whether the recitations regarding the patterns limit the structure of the printing apparatus. To address the Examiner's concern, Applicant amends the printing apparatuses of claims 12-18 and 20¹ to recite "configured to print a first correction pattern," etc. The claims therefore impart physical features to the printing apparatus by requiring it to be configured to print the claimed patterns.

NEW CLAIM:

Applicant adds new claim 21 to obtain more varied protection for the invention. Claim 21 includes features similar to claim 12 and is deemed patentable over the art for analogous reasons.

¹ The Examiner did not specifically mention claim 20. Nevertheless, Applicant also amends it to further define that it is reciting "configured to print."

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/780,859

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Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER


Daniel V. Williams
Registration No. 45,221

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